

Message Text

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45

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8372

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: US-CANADIAN RELATIONS

FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED DEC 19 FROM AMCONSUL
HALIFAX HW REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE UNCLAS HALIFAX 425

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CA

SUBJ: US-CANADIAN RELATIONS

1. ALL MARITIME DAILY NEWSPAPERS HAVE CARRIED CP
ACCOUNTS OF AMBASSADOR PORTER'S ALLEGED REMARKS TO PRESS
AT SATURDAY NIGHT RECEPTION. CBC HAS ALSO GIVEN
MATTER COVERAGE WITH PROBABLE INACCURATE VERSION OF
RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS ABOUT RESULTS OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
ELECTION. HALIFAX DAILIES HAVE ALSO CARRIED EXCELLENT
SYNDICATED ARTICLES BY CHARLES LYNCH.

2. ONLY MARITIME PAPERS SO FAR TO GIVE MATTER EDITORIAL
COVERAGE ARE HALIFAX CHRONICLE-HERLAD AND MAIL-STAR
WHICH BOTH CARRIED SAME EDITORIAL. IN EDITORIAL
ENTITLED, "CANADA-US RELATIONS" WRITER SAYS FROM
EARLIEST TIMES MEN HAVE OFTEN INCLINED TO SHOOT THE
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MESSENGER RATHER THAN PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO THE

MESSAGE ITSELF. PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU'S FIRST REACTION TO REMARKS ATTRIBUTED TO RETIRING U.S. AMBASSADOR WILLIAM PORTER WAS TO QUESTION THIER AUTHENTICITY AND CONTEND THAT THEY WENT WELL BEYOND ACCEPTABLE BOUNDS. MR. PORTER SAID CANADA-US RELATIONS ARE DETERIORATING. MOST OBSERVERS WOULD BE INCLINED TO AGREE THAT MR. PORTER SIMPLY STATED THE OBVIOUS, REGARDLESS OF HOW BLAME FOR THE SITUATION MIGHT BE ASSESSED.....WITH MINOR FLUCTUATIONS ON THE POSITIVE SIDE, RELATIONS HAVE BEEN WORSENING STEADILY FOR SEVERAL YEARS, FUELED IN MR. PORTER'S VIEW BY NATIONALISTIC CANADIAN LEGISLATION. IT MAY BE A GOOD THING TO GET THE WHOLE ISSUE OUT INTO THE OPEN AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT THE AVENUE CHOSEN BY THE AMERICANS WAS SO SELECTED BECAUSE THE ROUTINE CHANNELS WERE INEFFECTIVE. IN ANY CASE MR. PORTER EVIDENTLY SPOKE TO CANADIAN REPORTERS WITH THE BLESSING OF THE US STATE DEPARTMENT. WHETHER IT WAS THE PROPER CHANNEL OR NOT IS BESIDE THE POINT. IT HAS BEEN SAID AND IS ACCURATE ON THE RECORD. IT THEREFORE SHOULD BE DEALT WITH BY CANADA BEFORE MATTER GET WORSE IN WHICH CASE ALL CANADIANS MAY PAY IN LOWERED STANDARDS OF LIVING AND LOSS OF MARKETS. NOR SHOULD IT BE OVERLOOKED THAT CANADA'S STUPENDOUS REQUIREMENTS FOR INVESTMENT CAPITAL CANNOT BE FILLED AT HOME ... IF PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU IS CORRECT IN ASSERTING THAT THERE WAS NO KNOWLEDGE THROUGH CANADIAN OFFICIAL SOURCES OF US DISCONTENT AND MR. PORTER WAS IN FACT SPEAKING THE OFFICIAL VIEWS OF THE US THEN THE PRIME MINISTER HAS, AT THE LEAST, A SOUND REASON TO EXAMINE THE CAPACITY TO LEARN AND ADVISE OF SOME OFFICIALS REPRESENTING THIS COUNTRY IN WASHINGTON.

3. THE SAME HALIFAX PAPERS IN SAME EDITION ALSO CARRIED A FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL BY FEATURE WRITER BILL SMITH, ENTITLED "FOREIGN INVESTMENT AND TRADE". AMONG OTHER THINGS HE WRITES: "THERE SHOULD BE NO SHOCK IN OTTAWA TO LEARN THAT THE US IS NOW HARDENING HER LINE IN THE FACE OF THE RELENTLESS ANTI-AMERICANISM WHICH HAS BEEN THE OBSESSION (AT LEAST ON ALL APPEARANCE) OF TOO MANY HIGH GOVERNMENT CANADIANS. TOO MUCH CANADIAN CONCERN

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HAS BEEN WITH LEGISLATION FOR ELITES AND SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS WITHOUT REGARD TO THE BREAD-AND-BUTTER CONCERNS OF MOST PEOPLE...AS FOR OTTAWA'S SURPRISE THAT RETIRING AMBASSADOR WILLIAM PORTER DREW PUBLIC ATTENTION TO RISING ANTI-CANADIAN SENTIMENT IN THE UNITED STATES, IT WOULD BE HARD NOT TO KNOW THAT THIS HAS BEEN HAPPENING, AND IS BOUND TO HAPPEN GIVEN SOME OF OUR POLICIES. AS FOR THE WARNING OF AMBASSADOR PORTER, IT SIMPLY AMOUNTS TO,

I THINK, A DECISION THAT NOTHING LESS BLUNT WOULD BE PAID MUCH NEVERMIND...MAYBE NOW THAT OTTAWA HAS DISCOVERED - IF IT HAS - THAT THERE IS A PROBLEM WE'LL GET MORE ATTENTION ON BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUES AND LESS ON ULTRA-NATIONALISTIC CONCERNS OF SPECIAL INTERESTS GROUPS.

4. IN ANOTHER FRONT PAGE EDITORIAL, ENTITLED "SHAKESPEARE LACKS CANADIAN CONTENT", MR. SMITH CONTINUES HIS THEME IN THE DECEMBER 19 EDITION OF THE HALIFAX DAILIES. HE SAYS, "UNTIL AND UNLESS ALTERNATIVE MARKETS ARE SECURED (AS AGAINST HOPED FOR) THE UNITED STATES IS THE MARKET AND SUPPLY SOURCE UPON WHICH CANADA, LET ALONE NOVA SCOTIA, MUST DEPEND... IN THAT CONTEXT I THINK RETIRING US AMBASSADOR WILLIAM PORTER DID US A FAVOR, AND A BIG ONE, BY CUTTING THROUGH THE RUBBISH TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT ANTI-AMERICANISM IN ALL ITS FORMS IS STARTING TO GENERATE RETALIATORY HOSTILITY. NOW I WONDER ABOUT COINCIDENCE. THEREFORE I THINK THE FIRST GLIMMERING OF RETURNING COMMON SENSE SHOWED ALMOST IMMEDIATELY IN OTTAWA. THIRD READING OF THE BILL TO KNOCK OUT TIME AND READER'S DIGEST HAS BEEN GIVEN A HOIST, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT AND INSPIRED BY GROWING REVOLT IN GOVERNMENT RANKS.

5. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH CANADIANS AT SOCIAL FUNCTIONS DURING THIS WEEK I HAVE ENCOUNTERED ONLY ONE PERSON WHO DID NOT ENDORSE THE REMARKS OF AMBASSADOR PORTER AND THEIR GENERAL TENOR WITH REGARD TO US-CANADIAN RELATIONS AND IT TURNED OUT THAT THAT ONE PERSON LIVES IN TORONTO.

6. CLASSIFIED PORTION THIS MESSAGE FOLLOWS AS SEPARATE UNCLASSIFIED

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TELEGRAM. MANBEY UNQUOTE PORTER

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Message Attributes

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